

APPROVED

# **TOWN OF WESTFORD**

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

### **JOINT BOARDS MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**DATE:** Monday, April 5, 2004

**TIME:** 7:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Westford Academy

**PRESENT:** Christopher Romeo, Robert Jefferies, Dini Healy-Coffin,  
James Silva

**ABSENT:** Allan Loiselle

#### **OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Steve Ledoux-Town Manager, Members of the Westford School Committee, Steve Foster-Supt. of Schools, William Olsen-Asst. Supt. of Schools, Suzanne Marchand-Finance Director, Members of the Finance Committee, Audience Members

#### **Ongoing Budget Discussions**

Margaret Murray, Chairman of the School Committee, recapped the budget deliberations. Murray made a presentation of the Board of Selectmen's Proposal at the March 15, 2004 Joint Boards Meeting as follows:

\$700,000 Municipal Capital (\$300,000), Reserves (\$400,000), \$342,000 Close Out Revolving Choice Grant, \$129,000 Reduce Items from School Committee Capital, \$25,000 Additional 5 Choice Students, \$130,000 "Unclassified" Savings RIF, \$1,326,000 (\$94,000 Less than School Committee Request).

Murray recapped the School Committee meeting held on March 29, 2004 as follows:  
Full funding of \$1.4M School Committee Request (\$94,000) left unfunded; Concern about adding students without increasing staff; Include all funding to support FY05 school operating costs (\$1.4M & \$378,000 from Choice Foundation Revolving as Town appropriation; Create reserve account of \$150,000 for emergency needs.

Murray presented a proposal for funding shortfall as follows:

Shortfall	SPED FY04
\$69,000	\$162,000
<u>\$25,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
\$94,000	\$142,000
	<u>- 94,000</u>
	\$ 48,000 Offset FY04 Request

State Reimbursement for SPED Costs

\$42,000 (3/04)

\$42,000 (??)

\$84,000 Carry into FY05

The Boards discussed State funding, SPED, School Choice and the School Committee's proposal for funding the shortfall.

The School Committee voted unanimously to recommend the appropriation of \$35,703,358 for the FY05 School Committee budget.

**It was moved by Jefferies, seconded by Healy-Coffin, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR WITH 1 ABSENT (Loiselle), to support the baseline budget of \$35,703,358.**

Jim Sullivan, Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee voted 5-0 to support the appropriation of \$35,703,358.

### **Adjournment**

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by Jefferies, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR WITH 1 ABSENT (Loiselle), to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

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Steve Ledoux, Town Manager

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Christopher Romeo, Chairman

